

English E/IIIA Homework Activities

Pre-Reading Activities

Activity 1 Key Vocabulary Put these words from today's article into the correct sentence.

Score: ____ /15

burden parasites domestic culinary generation exhausted seductive uniform (adj.)

1. Hoping the attractive man would sit next to her at the bar, the beautiful woman gave him the most _____ look she could.
2. The young wife was getting tired of all her _____ responsibilities. She hated doing the laundry, washing the clothes, and cooking the meals.
3. People of my mother's _____ have a very old-fashioned viewpoint on life. They just don't understand young people's way of thinking.
4. My brother just graduated from a cooking school and he has really become a _____ artist.
5. After finishing the marathon race in record time, the runner was so _____ that he could barely walk.
6. What do mosquitoes, fleas, and many young Japanese men and women have in common? They are all _____.
7. My sister's clothes are all very _____. They are the same size, color, and style.
8. The cost of a college education is often a great _____ to many parents.

Activity 2 Scanning As quickly as possible, decide which paragraph answers these questions

Score: ____ /5

ex. Which paragraph shows how Spanish fathers talk to their sons about housework.

Paragraph 1

1. Which paragraph tells how Pablo helps his wife around the house? _____
2. Which paragraph talks about the author's English class? _____
3. Which paragraph describes Maria's busy work day? _____
4. Which paragraph describes how Spanish girls and boys dress? _____
5. Which paragraph describes the special day where Spanish men exchange gifts of books? _____

Activity 3 Skimming Quickly skim (read quickly and lightly) this week's article and mark any new words or expressions. In the chart below, write all the new words or expressions you marked. When you are finished skimming, look up these new words in your dictionaries and write the Japanese meaning. When you are finished with today's lesson, add these words and expressions to your Personal Dictionaries.

English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語

Activity 4 Listening Go to <http://mmuenge.blogspot.com/> and listen to Scott reading today's article. Try this several times and then read the article yourself out loud.

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 5 Discussion Questions Once you have read the articles several times, think about the questions below. You and your group will discuss these questions in class, so prepare your own opinions and thoughts before you come to class. For the last two, think of two questions about the article on your own.

1. How do Spanish men and women compare to men and women in Japan?
2. How is housework divided in Japanese homes?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of separating household work into "women's work" and "men's work"?
4. Are younger Japanese changing the attitude toward housework? Why/Why not?
5. What jobs OUTSIDE the home are men or women most suitable for? (ex. Would a man or woman make the better nursery school teacher?)
6. Are there any jobs that men or women should absolutely NOT do?
7. If you were re-born today, which would you rather be: a man or a woman? Why?
8. (your question) _____ ?

Where men are men . . . and women don't know the recipe for equality

Letter from Spain from Barbara Lamplugh

1 Compared with the seductive advertisements for cigarettes, underwear and alcohol, recent Spanish billboards appear stark: "Dare to ... if you're a man," they say. But instead of being challenged to some daredevil macho stunt, the males of Granada, Spain are just being asked to help with washing the dishes. The ads, which show a huge stack of dirty dishes, form part of Granada's campaign to improve the sharing of responsibilities and housework between men and women.

2 As in other Western countries, the struggle for gender equality continues. Equality in terms of pay and opportunities has improved enormously in recent years. It is in the home that traditional ideas are more difficult to change. Although most women now have jobs outside the home, many Spanish men still consider household chores to be women's work: "Leave that to your sister," fathers often command with a frown if their sons begin to help with the washing up, "It's not your job. It's women's work!"

3 Often, though, it is the women themselves, especially those of the older generation, who insist on serving the rest of the family. Spanish women see it as their duty, and are very proud of their culinary and housekeeping skills. Life for the housewife is an endless *faena*, a round of tasks to ensure the comfort of every (other) member of the family.

4 Maria is in her late 50s and works full-time, cleaning the large building where I work, and running the cafeteria. Her husband works there too, although his job is less physically demanding. When Maria arrives home, exhausted after a long and tiring day, her work begins again. While the rest of the family relaxes, she sets about the household chores, prepares a meal and stares in shock at the tall pile of ironing that is waiting for her. Most of it belongs to her five adult children, who see no reason to leave home in the foreseeable future.

5 "It's not fair," Maria agrees, "but what can I do? When I ask them to help, they always have something more important to do – an outing with friends, a series of phone calls. Or they point out how much better their shirts look when I iron them." She shrugs: "Young people " Neither can Manolo, her husband, be expected to change his ways: "It's not what he's used to".

6 On the other hand, it is not true to say that all Spanish men are parasites in the home. They too have their duties. My landlord, Pablo, is retired and seems to do whatever his wife asks. It is clear from the many orders, spoken in commanding tones each day, who is boss. However, she would never dream of asking him to shop for food in the market.

7 Clear lines exist in the division of tasks. For example, it is Pablo who carries the washing up to the terrace, but Emilia who must hang it out. Pablo takes care of any outside jobs, such as hosing the terrace and watering the garden, but indoors is the undisputed domain of his wife.

8 There are some signs of change among younger couples, but the pace of progress is painfully slow. The men in my English class for adult students were completely stumped when asked to share a simple recipe. "But I've never cooked anything," protested 27-year old Javier. "My mother always cooks." Part of the Granada's program to help relieve the burden on women and mothers involves teaching boys to cook. Clearly they have a long way to go.

9 Perhaps the difficulty in changing attitudes to housework in a Mediterranean culture reflects the wider picture of differences between the sexes. In southern Europe, the facts are clear: men are men and women are women. Unisex fashion is an unknown concept.

Chicos (boys) and *chicas* (girls) do not wear the same clothes, or shuffle along in the same uniform manner. They dress differently, carry themselves differently, displaying with pride their masculinity or femininity.

10 In town squares all over Spain, the parents and grandparents of these young people gather on warm summer evenings to chat and pass the time of day with their neighbors. Men sit together on one side, women on the other. It has always been that way it seems.

11 And it has always been that way on "The Day of the Book", which is celebrated every year on April 23. On this day it is the custom to give friends a book as a present. "Yes, but not to women," Javier explained earnestly, "To women you give a rose."

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